

levels. Last year, HESTEC reached over 1,500 teachers, 25,000 community members, and 330,000 students from across Texas. The initiative also has generated \$1 million in scholarship dollars for college students.

The University of Texas Pan American has created a model initiative for the Nation. Today, on the eve of the 3rd annual HESTEC and in the midst of our national celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting this fine institution for its service to the Hispanic community and to the Nation.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMISSIONING OF THE USS "OZARK" IN PORTLAND, OR, AND HONORING ITS CREW

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2004*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure today that I welcome the crewmembers of the USS *Ozark* back to Portland, OR to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the ship's commissioning on September 23, 1944. The *Ozark*, built by the Willamette Iron and Steel Corporation here in Portland, crossed the Columbia River bar less than 2 weeks later and played a vital role in our Nation's victory in the Pacific Theater during World War II. The Pacific Theater saw some of the war's most dangerous naval encounters, and the commitment of the USS *Ozark's* crewmembers is a testimony of their bravery and sacrifice.

In the Pacific Theater, the ship and its crew transported troops for the invasion of Iwo Jima and evacuated wounded Marines to hospitals in Guam. After seeing further action in the Pacific Theater, the USS *Ozark* was present in Tokyo Harbor during the historic ceremony where the Japanese surrendered on board the USS *Missouri*. The ship then returned 950 recovered American prisoners of war to the United States via Guam and Pearl Harbor.

I want to take this opportunity to thank those who served aboard the USS *Ozark* for their brave efforts in the defense of our Nation. I wish them a festive 60th anniversary celebration this week in Portland.

TRIBUTE TO MR. LOWELL E. ENSLEN

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2004*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the many accomplishments of Mr. Lowell E. Ensen during 52 years of service in the Northwest Indiana community. Lowell has spent nearly five decades representing his community. His career as a lawyer has allowed him the opportunity to touch the lives of numerous people.

Lowell E. Ensen was born in Gary, Indiana in 1927. He attended Hobart public schools and Valparaiso University. Lowell was admit-

ted to the American Bar Association in 1952. He was National President of Sigma Delta Kappa from 1963–1964, Town Attorney of Dyer, Indiana from 1957–1960, 1962, and 1964–1972 and of Cedar Lake, Indiana, from 1976–1980. Lowell has accomplished many visionary goals throughout his career. He is a member of Ensen, Ensen & Matthews Law Firm, which was established in 1960. Ensen, Ensen, & Matthews Law Firm provides general civil, criminal and appellate practice in all State and Federal courts, family/domestic relations, probate and estate planning, insurance, real estate and labor relations law.

Not only has Lowell Ensen had many constructive accomplishments throughout his career as a lawyer, he has also actively contributed to his community through participation in various programs designed at improving opportunities for the people of Northwest Indiana. Lowell was President of Members Hammond from 1965–1966 and is currently affiliated with Lake County, Indiana State, and American Bar Associations, American Judicature Society, Indiana Trial Lawyers Association, The Association of Trial Lawyers of America, and Fellow Indiana Bar Foundation. Along with his many other accomplishments, Lowell has received numerous certificates and awards.

Lowell has demonstrated his faithfulness by his extraordinary service to Ensen, Ensen, & Matthews and his community through his hard work and self-sacrifice. Although Lowell has served on numerous committees and has dedicated his time to Ensen, Ensen, & Matthews, he has never neglected to provide support and love to his family.

Mr. Speaker, Lowell E. Ensen has given his time and efforts selflessly to the people of Northwest Indiana throughout his years of service. He has taught every member of Ensen, Ensen, & Matthews the true meaning of service to all members of the Northwest Indiana community. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Lowell E. Ensen for his outstanding contributions to Indiana's First Congressional District. I am proud to commend him for his lifetime of service and devotion.

TRIBUTE TO INSPECTOR DENNIS WITULSKI AND BIO-OPERATIONS CHIEF ANTHONY MALTESE

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2004*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, September 24, 2004 the Sterling Heights Fire Fighters Union will host their Annual Dinner-Dance, honoring their 2004 retirees. This yearly event, honors Sterling Heights firefighters for their dedication to their community and recognizes their commendable contributions to the city. I am pleased to be associated with this fine organization and to call many of them my friends.

I am proud to rise today to pay tribute to the careers of two retiring firefighters.

Inspector Dennis Witulski, discharged from the U.S. Navy in 1973, was appointed as a Sterling Heights firefighter on July 20, 1981. He was promoted to FEO in 1992 and then

promoted again to Lieutenant in 1996. Mr. Witulski was deemed Firefighter of the Year in 2001 by the city of Sterling Heights and American Legion Post 151. He twice received Perfect Attendance awards in 1996 and 2002. Mr. Witulski received various merits and awards throughout his tenure with the fire department, and retired on July 20, 2004.

Bio-Operations Chief Anthony Maltese was born in Detroit, Michigan, on June 6, 1950. He was appointed to the position of firefighter January 29, 1973. He received commendation for responding to a house fire in 1974 and a Meritorious Unit Citation for a lifesaving incident in 1986. Mr. Maltese was promoted to Lieutenant in July of 1992, and promoted again to Captain in October of 1995. He received his Associates Degree, Cum Laude, in 1994 and was appointed Battalion Chief in 1997. Mr. Maltese retired as Operations Chief on November 19, 2003.

Many of us embark on a profession that does not call for us to put our lives in danger each day we go into work. These men chose to dedicate their careers and their lives to helping people in their community stay safe and secure, and putting their lives in harm's way to save a life, a family, a home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these two heroes, who have dedicated themselves to Sterling Heights and the community at large in a way that few can; with valor, commitment and honor.

TRIBUTE TO GIANNA ANGELO POULOS-DASKALAKI FOR HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE 2004 OLYMPIC GAMES

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2004*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki, the woman who was responsible for the success of the 2004 Olympic Games held in Athens, Greece. As head of the Athens 2004 Organizing Committee, "Mrs. A" was instrumental in ensuring that Athens remained the site of Summer Games and that the massive undertaking of construction and organization was completed.

Preparing for an event that is as elaborate as the Olympic Games is a monumental task—one which was almost lost to Athens. Credit for the success of the Games has gone to the leadership and determination of Mrs. A whose vision, tenacity, and pride in Greece enabled the Athens 2004 Organizing Committee to overcome every challenge they faced.

I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to attend this summer's games and found myself in awe of all that surrounded me. From the magic of the opening ceremonies and the lighting of the Olympic Torch to the incredible athletic venues, Athens was nothing short of spectacular. As the Games were brought back to their birthplace, the city was reborn—the Old World met the New and people from across the world celebrated in the spirit of competition. Whether spectators marveled at the breathtaking image of the lighted Parthenon in the night sky, or took in the